

## **Health Care System and Health Care Security Board Summary of Meeting on May 6, 2002**

The Health Care System and Health Care Security Board met on Monday, May 6th in Room 427, State House. The meeting was called to order by the Chairs, Senator Martin and Representative Volenik.

### **Funding News**

Rep. Volenik updated the Board on efforts to raise funds to support the feasibility study. The Board received a \$5000 gift from Harvey Picker. Rep. Volenik also informed the Board of a commitment from the Nurses Association for approximately \$27,000 in funding. A press conference to announce the gift was scheduled for Wednesday, May 8<sup>th</sup> in Augusta.

### **Maine Health Information Center Presentation**

Jim Harnar and Brian Pearson of the Maine Health Information Center briefed the board on the activities of the Maine Health Information Center. MHIC is a nonprofit health care data information center. MHIC maintains databases with claims data for the Maine Medicaid program and the Maine Health Management Coalition's employers. MHIC has data for approximately 200,000 individuals in its employer database and another 150,000 to 200,000 individuals through the Medicaid program; in total, its databases contain information on 25% of Maine's population. In addition, MHIC is working with the Maine Health Data Organization in partnership to create an all-payer claims database for the 30-50 million claims paid annually in Maine. Jim Harnar reported that efforts to establish the database are ongoing and that they hope to have the claims database on-line sometime in early 2003.

MHIC has worked with researchers and consultants in the past to analyze the data held in its databases. Permission from the Department of Human Services and the Maine Health Management Coalition is needed to access both the employer database and the Medicaid database. However, MHIC is willing to assist the Board and its consultants in collecting and analyzing data that would be helpful for the Board's feasibility study. The costs of data collection were estimated at between \$15,000 to \$25,000. This estimate includes an access fee that may be required by the Maine Health Management Coalition and reimbursement for the time spent by MHIC staff.

A motion was made and accepted to request permission from the Maine Health Management Coalition for use of information from their employer database in connection with the feasibility study. Board staff will contact the Maine Health Management Coalition for more information.

### **MHAF Grant Application**

The board reviewed a draft of the application narrative prepared by Beth Kilbreth. The grant application deadline is May 15<sup>th</sup>. Members made a few suggestions for changes to the narrative related to the required elements of the feasibility study and the desired elements sought from a

consultant if resources are available. A formal motion was made and accepted to adopt the grant application with the noted changes and to authorize Beth and Board staff to finalize and submit the application to the Maine Health Access Foundation. (*The grant application was submitted on May 14<sup>th</sup>.*)

### **Request for Proposal Process**

In anticipation of the May 10<sup>th</sup> release date, the Board reviewed a final draft of the Request for Proposal prepared by staff. In light of the funding committed by the Nurses Association, the Board discussed whether or not the RFP should ask bidders to submit 2 proposals, one for approximately \$40,000 (the amount of funding secured by the Board) and one for approximately \$200,000 (the amount requested from MHAF). After an extended discussion, the Board decided to revise the RFP to reflect the funding situation and invite bidders to submit one or 2 bids to reflect the potential differences in funding available. The RFP will indicate that the Board has submitted a grant request and if successful, the Board intends to award up to \$200,000 for the feasibility study with \$25,000 set aside for the costs of data collection and analysis (Maine-specific data). A formal motion was made and accepted to direct Board staff to revise the RFP as outlined.

Board staff will revise the RFP and e-mail it to Board members for final review on Wednesday, May 8<sup>th</sup>. Members will be asked to respond with comments by Friday, May 10<sup>th</sup>. The RFP notice will be distributed on May 10<sup>th</sup> and the notice posted on the Legislature's web site and the Maine State Government web site as well.

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held Monday, May 20<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am. The agenda will include an update on the interest in the RFP, review and discussion of the scoring and evaluation criteria for the RFP, questions regarding the RFP received from interested parties and discussion of the study specifications.

### **Upcoming Schedule of Meetings**

The Board has scheduled the following meetings:

- May 20, 2002                      9:30 am – 3:00 pm
- June 24, 2002                    9:30 am – 3:00 pm
- July 8, 2002                      9:30 am – 3:00 pm
- July 22, 2002                    9:30 am – 3:00 pm

All meetings will be Room 427, State House, Augusta, Maine.